

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 243575

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. SOVIET WEEKLY ENDORSES THE PLO

IN THE DECEMBER 12 ISSUE OF THE LITERARY GAZETTE, SOVIET ARABIST IGOR BELYAYEV ASSERTS THAT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE MUST DEAL WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) ON PALESTINE MATTERS AND THAT THE PLO MUST FORMULATE CONCRETE PROPOSALS CONCERNING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT THE BELYAYEV ARTICLE IS THE FIRST PUBLIC SOVIET ENDORSEMENT OF THE PLO AND BELIEVES IT MAY BE A TRIAL BALLOON MEANT TO GAUGE REACTION TO MORE OPEN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 15532, 12/12.

### 2. DAMASCUS REPORTS VIOLENT CLASH WITH ISRAELIS

A MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN DAMASCUS HAS REPORTED A BATTLE IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE FRONT INVOLVING ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND MORTARS. THE SYRIANS CLAIM TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 243575

HAVE DESTROYED A ROCKET VEHICLE, THREE TANKS, ONE BULL-

DOZER, AND ONE HEAVY MACHINEGUN EMBLACEMENT WHILE LOS-  
ING ONLY ONE TRANSPORT VEHICLE. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO

STATED THAT TWENTY ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE KILLED OR  
WOUNDED. (UNCLASSIFIED) FBIS 88, 12/12.

### 3. PRAVDA COMMENTS ON US NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

PRAVDA (DECEMBER 12) IN ITS FIRST EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY  
ON THE APPEARANCE OF SEVENTH FLEET UNITS IN THE INDIAN  
OCEAN AVOIDS REFERENCE TO AN INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE  
BUT DOES ASSERT THAT THE PRESENCE OF US NAVAL VESSELS  
NEAR SOUTHERN ARABIA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH EFFORTS TO  
ACHIEVE A ME PEACE SETTLEMENT AND THAT THE SEVENTH  
FLEET, JUST AS PREVIOUSLY IN VIETNAM, IS A SOURCE OF  
TENSION IN THE AREA. THE ARTICLE NOTES SOUTH YEMINI  
AND EGYPTIAN COMPLAINTS REGARDING OUR FORCES IN THE  
INDIAN OCEAN. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 15488,  
12/12.

### 4. KUWAIT: PARTICIPATION RATHER THAN NATIONALIZATION

EMBASSY KUWAIT REPORTS THAT THE GOK, INSTEAD OF SUPPORT-  
ING A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL TO NATIONALIZE THE GULF/  
BRITISH PETROLEUM OWNED KUWAIT OIL COMPANY, IS WITH  
SOME SUCCESS CONVINCING THE ASSEMBLY THAT PARTICIPATION  
IS PREFERABLE TO NATIONALIZATION. IN A DECEMBER 10  
"SECRET SESSION" THE GOK ARGUED FOR PARTICIPATION AND  
PRESENTED TO THE ASSEMBLY THE GENERAL POINTS OF A PARTI-  
CIPATION ACCORD STILL BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE OIL  
COMPANIES. THE ACCORD CALLS FOR SIXTY PERCENT GOK PAR-  
TICIPATION WITH REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON THE BOOK VALUE  
OF ASSETS. THE GOK FEELS IT MADE ITS POINT THAT KUWAIT  
IS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO DO WITHOUT THE COMPANIES IN  
RUNNING THE OIL INDUSTRY. (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT 4320,  
12/12.

### 5. VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT-ELECT ON FOREIGN POLICY

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PAGE 03 STATE 243575

CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF VENEZUELA,  
SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WILL MAKE EVERY  
EFFORT TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US, BUT EX-  
PECTS MORE JUST TREATMENT IN RETURN. COMMENTING ON US  
POLICY, HE OBSERVED THAT "THE POLICY OF MR. NIXON HAS  
NOT BEEN A HAPPY ONE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTINENT,"  
AND THAT VENEZUELAN "HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE IRKED  
AND RESENTFUL OF THAT POLICY." PEREZ ALSO SAID

VENEZUELA WOULD NOT ACT UNILATERALLY, I.E. OUTSIDE THE

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, TO RENEW DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH CUBA. (UNCLASSIFIED) CARACAS L0599,  
FBIS 124, 12/12. RUSH

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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